

REMARKS

Introduction

The September 3, 2004 Office Action has been reviewed and its contents carefully noted. Reconsideration of this case, as amended and in view of the arguments made herein, is respectfully requested. Claims 17 through 42 are currently pending. By this Amendment, Claims 1 through 16 and Claim 29 have been canceled and Claims 17, 18, 28, 30, 35, 37, 38, 40 and 41 have been amended. Applicant maintains that this Amendment is supported by the application, as originally-filed, and respectfully requests that this Amendment be entered. Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Objections to the Claims and the Specification

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner requested correction to the listing of claims because the Supplemental Preliminary Amendment failed to identify claims 1 through 7 as canceled. In response, Applicant has amended the listing of claims to identify claims 1 through 7 as canceled and, therefore, requests withdrawal of this objection.

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner requested correction to the statement of continuing data to provide the current status of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/525,543. In response, Applicant has amended the statement of continuing data to include the current status of U.S. Application Serial NO. 09/525,543 and, therefore, requests withdrawal of this objection.

In paragraph 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner requested correction of the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 15 to place the words “adjacent thereto” in the appropriate location. In response, Applicant has amended the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 15 to add the words “adjacent thereto” in the appropriate location and, therefore, requests withdrawal of this objection.

In paragraph 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner requested correction of the Abstract because the reference to “FIG. 1B” is inappropriate. In response, Applicant has amended the Abstract to delete reference to “FIG. 1B” and, therefore, requests withdrawal of this objection.

In paragraph 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner requested correction of grammatical errors on page 6, line 17; page 6, next to the last line and page 9, line 21. In response, Applicant has attached hereto as Exhibit A pages 6 and 9 of the application as originally filed and respectfully maintains that no correction is necessary. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this objection.

In paragraph 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner requested correction of Claims 18, 28, 30, 35, 37, 38, 40, 41 and 42. In response, Applicant has amended Claims 18, 28, 30, 35, 37, 38, 40, 41 and 42 and, therefore, requests withdrawal of these objections.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

In the Office Action, Claims 17 through 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Krupka, et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,483,467 (hereinafter, the “‘467 Patent”). The Examiner stated that the ‘467 Patent discloses “transmitting a connectivity interrogation signal to a first socket contact proximate a first data port”. The Examiner further stated that the ‘467 Patent discloses “receiving a connectivity response signal from a second socket contact proximate a second data port” and “interpreting said connectivity response signal ... identify a connectivity between said first socket contact and said second socket contact”.

Nonetheless, the Examiner acknowledged that Claim 29, which depends upon Claim 17, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim, i.e., Claim 17.

In response, in an attempt to advance the prosecution but without conceding either the need for amendment or the correctness of the Examiner's position, Applicant has canceled Claim 29 and amended Claim 17 to include the limitation of Claim 29. Claims 18 through 28 depend from the currently amended Claim 17. Applicant maintains that the '467 Patent does not disclose transmitting a connectivity interrogation signal to a second socket contact over a dedicated conductor incorporated into a patch cord.

Accordingly Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

In the Office Action, Claims 30 through 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Krupka, et al., EP 575100 (hereinafter, the "'100 Patent"). The Examiner stated that the '100 Patent discloses "transmitting a connectivity interrogation signal to a first socket contact proximate a first data port". The Examiner further stated that the '100 Patent discloses "scanning said plurality of input latches for an indication of receipt of said connectivity interrogation signal at a second socket contact proximate a second data port".

In response, in an attempt to advance prosecution but without conceding either the need for amendment or the correctness of the Examiner's position, Applicant has amended Claim 30 to include the limitation of Claim 29. Claims 31 through 37 depend from the currently amended Claim 30. Applicant maintains that the '100 Patent does not disclose transmitting a connectivity interrogation signal to a second socket contact over a dedicated conductor incorporated into a patch cord.

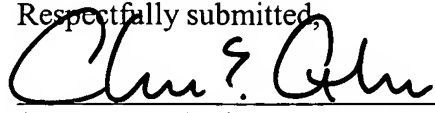
Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that the Claims in the present invention are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks.

Any additional fees or charges necessary in connection with the present application are hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4709.

Respectfully submitted,

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repeated for port two and so on until all of the ports' connection status has been determined.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

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FIG. 1A is a perspective illustration of a current RJ45 cable which can be adapted to work with the present system.

FIG. 1B is a perspective illustration of the RJ45 cable of FIG. 1A which has been fitted with an adapter jacket of the present invention.

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FIG. 1C is an isolated perspective illustration of an adapter jacket of the present invention which is adapted for an RJ45 cable jack.

FIG. 2 is a front view of a plurality of RJ45 sockets fitted with an adapter board of the present invention.

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FIG. 3 is a simplified schematic illustration of the present connectivity monitoring system.

FIG. 4 is a simplified schematic illustration which shows the relationship between the output drivers, the socket contacts, and the receiver latches.

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FIG. 5A, 5B, 5C illustrate various other standard cables which can be adapted for use with the present system.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

In order to electronically determine the connectivity between one port to another, it is generally well understood that an electrical conductor

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4, the output driver module 18 has a plurality of output drivers 20, and the receiver module 19 has a plurality of latches 21 (other similar electronic devices can be used instead of latches). Each of the socket contacts 15 is uniquely connected to one output driver 20 and one latch 21. The output
5 module 18 and the input module 19 are both coupled to a micro-processor 21 which is in turn coupled to a communication interface 22. The system 1 may be coupled to a local area network 23 or to a computer 24 to report the information regarding connectivity.

Both the output module and input module can be implemented
10 using standard IC devices. The main function of the output module 18 is to provide a plurality of output drivers 20 which address adaptor contacts 15 and to send a signal to the contacts 15 when instructed to do so by the micro-processor 21. The main function of the input module 19 is to provide a plurality of latches 21 (or other similar devices) which also address the
15 contacts 15 and to receive the signal sent by the output drivers. The communication interface 22 can also be implemented using standard devices currently available to interface between the micro-processor 21 and local area network 23 and electronic devices.

Now to describe the system 1 in greater detail, the adapter board 14
20 shown in FIG. 3 is placed over port sockets (not shown in FIG. 3 but shown in FIG. 2). The micro-processor 21 has pre-designated one output driver as a first driver and the socket contact which it is connected to as the first contact. The latch in the input module 19 which is connected to the designated first contact is designated as the first latch. The port
25 corresponding to the first socket contact is considered to be the first port.